

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1. An automatic firearm comprising:
  - a breech mounted for movement between a fired position and a cocked position;
  - a breech catch having an inoperative position and a locked position;
  - a sear arm mounted to the breech catch; and
  - a safety to permit at least one of the sear arm and the breech catch to move out of a motion path of the breech when the breech moves from the fired position toward the cocked position, but to maintain the sear arm in engagement with the breech when the breech is in the cocked position and the firearm is dropped.
2. A firearm as defined in claim 1 wherein the breech catch is pivotable between the inoperative position and the locked position.
3. A firearm as defined in claim 1 wherein the sear arm is pivotably mounted to the breech catch.
4. A firearm as defined in claim 1 wherein the sear arm is part of a safety catch including a nose.

5. A firearm as defined in claim 4 further comprising a spring mounted between the breech catch and the nose.
6. A firearm as defined in claim 4 wherein the safety comprises a safety roller having a safety position and a firing position.
7. A firearm as defined in claim 6 wherein the safety roller defines a first aperture to removably receive the nose.
8. A firearm as defined in claim 7 wherein the nose enters the first aperture when (1) the safety roller is in the firing position, and (2) when the safety roller is in the safety position and the breech moves from the fired position toward the cocked position.
9. A firearm as defined in claim 7 further comprising:
  - a trigger movable between a released position and a firing position;
  - and
  - a safety bolt having a first position and a second position, the safety bolt preventing movement of the trigger from the released position to the firing position when the safety bolt is in the second position.
10. A firearm as defined in claim 9 wherein the safety roller defines a second aperture to receive the safety bolt when the safety roller is in the firing position, and the safety bolt enters the first position when the safety

bolt is in the firing position.

11. A firearm as defined in claim 9 further comprising a trigger spring engaging the trigger and the breech catch.

12. A firearm as defined in claim 9 further comprising a roller coupled to the trigger to move the breech catch to the inoperative position when the trigger moves to the firing position.

13. A firearm as defined in claim 1 further comprising a trip-releasing catch to hold the breech catch in the inoperative position when the breech is in the fired position and a trigger is released.

14. A firearm as defined in claim 13 wherein the trip-releasing catch is movable by the breech moving from the fired position to the cocked position.

15. For use with a handheld automatic firearm having a breech, an apparatus comprising:

- a trigger movable between a resting position and a firing position;
- a trigger spring biasing the trigger toward the resting position;
- a pivotable breech catch;
- a safety catch mounted to the breech catch for movement between a locking position and an inoperative position, wherein, when the safety catch is

located in a motion path of the breech, the safety catch is forced into its locking position by the breech moving forward; and

a safety catch mechanism to lock the trigger in its resting position and to lock the safety catch in engagement with the breech.

16. An apparatus as defined in claim 14 further comprising a trip-releasing catch having a first position wherein the trip-releasing catch releasably secures the breech catch in an inoperative position until the breech trips the trip-releasing catch.

17. An apparatus as defined in claim 14 wherein the safety catch mechanism includes a movable edge located in a motion path of the safety catch, wherein the safety catch is adapted to move past the movable edge when the breech catch pivots from an inoperative position toward a locked position and the safety catch mechanism is in a safety position, and wherein the movable edge prevents the breech catch and the safety catch from releasing the breech to fire a shot when the safety catch mechanism is in the safety position.

18. An apparatus as defined in claim 17 wherein the safety catch mechanism is a safety roller defining a recess, and the movable edge is a wall of the recess.

19. An apparatus as defined in claim 18 wherein the safety roller defines a stop recess and further comprising a safety bolt to engage the stop recess when the safety roller is in a firing position, wherein the safety bolt is prevents movement of the trigger from the resting position to the firing position when the safety roller is in the safety position.

20. An apparatus as defined in claim 14 wherein the trigger includes an extension to engage the safety bolt to prevent the trigger from moving from the resting position to the firing position when the safety roller is in the safety position.